

**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**Room 3720**  
**October 11, 2005**

Minutes

Member Present:

HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey  
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks and Recreation  
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights  
MILLIS, Eric – Division of Water Resources  
DANIELS, Ron – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
CLARK, Robert – DEQ/Division of Air Quality  
HARJA, John – GOPB/Public Lands  
CANNING, Michael – Division of Wildlife Resources  
REICHERT, Michael – DEQ/Division of Water Quality  
FAUSETT, Chris – School & Institutional Trust Lands  
GUNNELL, Roy – Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pamela – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn – GOPB/Public Lands  
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of  
Resources  
HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land  
Management  
COTTAM, Brian – GOPB (teleconference)  
MADDUX, Mary – BLM (teleconference)  
STEPHENS, Don – BLM (teleconference)

Susan Zarekarizi, vice-chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.  
Kimm Harty, chair, conducted the meeting after she returned from another meeting.

**I. Approval of Minutes/Announcements**

The committee will approve the minutes for September 13 and October 11 at the November 11, 2005 meeting.

**II. Special Presentations/Discussions**

**Matthew Higdon, Mary Maddux and Don Stephens, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) West Tavaputs Plateau Environmental Impact Statement (PML #5629)**

This project proposes to develop the natural gas resources of the West Tavaputs Plateau in Duchesne and Carbon Counties, approximately 30 miles east-northeast of Price, Utah. Surface ownership is 87% federal, 8% state and 5% private. Over 20 years, BBC proposes drilling up to 750 natural gas wells on 500 locations in the EIS analysis area. Gas drilling has occurred in this area since the 1950s. The West Tavaputs Drilling Program EA and the Stone Cabin 3-D Seismic Survey EA included some of the same lands proposes for development.

On average about 30 wells will be drilled per year. Some years the total number of wells may reach 70. Most of the drilling will occur on top of the plateau. Many of the wells will be located on existing well pads.

Important issues addressed in the EIS include:

Nine Mile Canyon Backcountry Byway potential conflicts between gas development traffic and recreational travelers. A transportation plan is in development.

The Nine Mile Canyon Special Recreation and Cultural Management Area is within and adjacent to the project area. A substantial amount of rock art, cultural and historical artifacts and Ute Tribal remains and is under consideration as a natural historic district.

The National demand for natural gas as directed by the President's National Energy Policy statement in 2001. Natural gas reserves in the basin may be a significant source to reduce shortfalls in natural gas production in the future.

Threatened, endangered and sensitive species issues resulting from biological surveys. The bald eagle and the Mexican spotted owl may nest in the West Tavaputs project area. This area is also important big game and sage grouse designated wintering habitat. Other wilderness issues may exist.

Injection wells will be monitored daily and with remote telemetry and computer monitoring. Compressors are proposed for both plateaus (Flat Iron Mesa, Prickly Pear and Peters Point), which may pose some air quality issues if gas is used for power generation. The use of electric power is under consideration. A separator will be used to remove natural gas and oil from water. Pump water disposal will require transportation to Roosevelt. Dust and noise control will be addressed. The Questar and Nine Mile Canyon pipeline will need to be expanded to transport additional gas. Pipeline construction may be underground or on the surface depending upon existing terrain. The Peters Point airstrip will be used to transport employees to the field. Approximately 141 people will be employed during construction and drilling operations. A worker camp will be built on state or federal land to house field workers. Access will be restricted to oil and gas activities within wilderness study areas. Additional access may be needed to address wildlife issues. The use 92 acre-feet of water will be used for dust control and well drilling operations. The emissions released from these wells will be addressed in the EIS. Water sources will be from deep wells, surface water or recycled water. Reclamation of pits will be completed within six months.

Matthew Higdon provided a project summary, the notice of intent, a project map and a schedule of public meetings for the EIS (see handout). Comments will be accepted until November 4, 2005. Comments can be sent directly to the BLM Price Field Office or submitted online by accessing the national BLM website at  
URL: <http://www.blm.gov/utah/westtavaputs/comments.htm>.

Another large drilling project is located adjacent to this project in Uintah and Duchesne County. The GASCO project is two times.

Public meetings will be held in Price, Lehi (for Salt Lake City) and Roosevelt, October 18, 19 and 20, 2005, respectively.

### **III. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects**

Brian Cottam, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, announced that 12 projects will receive 3.2 million dollars in LeRay McCallister funding (this list has been updated to reflect the final selection):

Francis Foothill Preservation Project, Summit County  
Kamas Kevin Conway Wildlife Management Area, Summit County  
Co-op Valley and Spanish Hollow, Iron County  
Range Creek/Rainbow Glass Ranch, Carbon County  
Tree Utah Phase III, Salt Lake County  
Jordan River Parkway Survey/Restoration, Salt Lake County  
Parley's Creek Viewshed Preservation, Summit County  
Mark's Property Conservation Easement, Salt Lake County  
Knudson Park, Salt Lake County  
Zollinger Farm, Cache County  
Hobble Creek Open Space Preserve, Utah County  
Kay's Creek Restoration Project, Davis County  
Selman Ranch Conservation Project, Cache County  
Virgin River Headwaters Project, Iron/Washington County  
Boulder Creek Canyon, Garfield County  
Bonneville Shoreline Trail (Z Trail) Section, Salt Lake County  
Utah Botanical Center, Davis County  
Wasatch Warm Springs Preservation, Wasatch County  
Gateway Park and Urban Fishery, Utah County  
Perkins Flat-Emigration Canyon, Salt Lake County  
Sandwash Sink Draw Easement, Duchesne County  
Draper Corner Canyon Easement Project, Salt Lake County  
Shields River Walk, Salt Lake County

Please contact John Bennett for more information. Funding (approximately \$100,000) is still available for planning assistance for local governments interested in using the critical lands and county planning toolkits. Seven counties are using the toolkit.

John Harja, Public Lands Office, announced that the state has been invited to participate as a cooperating agency for the West Tavaputs project. A Memorandum of Understanding will provide many opportunities to participate in the process.

The state will assist with the recreation and socio-economic aspects of the Richfield Resource Management Plan (RMP). BLM anticipates a fall or spring Draft Richfield RMP. The Price RMP is moving forward again. Socio-economic information in Forest Service and BLM plans is improving.

The Forest Service and the BLM have different regulations and process for planning. The Statewide Fuel Management Plan was signed the end of September 2005. John Harja stated that the President Clinton's Roadless Rule has been overturned in several lawsuits. Tim Garcia is the new Forest Service statewide coordinator. As a cooperating agency the state has special status and responsibilities that are different in regard to meeting participation and the review of draft documents.

Ron Daniels, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, reported that many drilling permits have been received. Next year an energy policy will be legislated.

**IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library**

A handout of the current status of the RDCC Project Management System was provided to the committee. No items were discussed.

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:56 a.m. The next meeting will be held on November 8, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in room 3710.